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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT 23 Infantry Regiment in Nyrsko

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1. Prior to 30 November 1950, the 23d Inf Regt, known as "Hviezdoslov Orsaka", was stationed in Nyrsko (N 50/U 99) and was subordinate to an infantry division commanded by General Lomsky, which was located in Susice (N 50/Q 28). Also subordinate to the division were an artillery unit in Klatovy (N 50/L 00), an infantry unit in Kasperske Hory (N 50/Q 27) and another infantry unit in Vimperk (N 50/Q 46). (1)

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2. The regimental headquarters, the headquarters company, technical company, submachine gun company, and the I and II Bns were located in Camp Pod Lesem, south of Nyrsko, while the heavy weapons company, mortar company and II (sic) Bn were quartered in the monastery and the castle at Bystrice (N 50/U 99). The reconnaissance company was stationed in Hamry (N 50/U 98). (1)

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3. Officers of the 23rd Infantry Regiment included the following:

a. Regimental Commander	Lt. Colonel Karel Valenta
b. Deputy Commander and CO of III Battalion	Staff Captain Mihal
c. Chief of Staff	Staff Captain Grigurock
d. DOZ	Senior Lieutenant Mlkvy
e. Administrative and Supply Officer	Captain Ozimy
f. CO of Headquarters Company	Staff Captain Havr
g. CO of Submachine Gun Company	Captain Orlicky

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The I and II battalions were commanded by two staff captains who had only recently been transferred to the regiment. (2)

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. Sixty percent of the regiment's personnel were Czechs and 40 percent Slovaks. The regiment was organized into the regimental headquarters with the headquarters company, [ ] the reconnaissance company; the technical company, [ ] the heavy weapons company, [ ] the mortar company; and the I through III Bn. The I Bn consisted of two infantry companies, a heavy machine gun company, a gun company, and a mortar company, each company numbering 80 to 100 soldiers. The technical company consisted of an engineer platoon and a signal platoon. The strength of the regiment was continuously increasing and was estimated at 1,800 EM in late November 1950. Other soldiers who were clerks at the regimental headquarters said that the personnel of the regiment would eventually number about 2,800. (3)
5. The headquarters company and the reconnaissance company were equipped with Czech model 48-A and B submachine guns and Czech model 26 light machine guns. The heavy weapons company was observed training with three 45-mm guns; seven or eight guns of the same caliber were seen in the company's ordnance room. The regiment's mortar company had mortars of 80 and 120-mm caliber, the latter drawn by a team of horses. Each infantry company of the I Bn was armed with German model 98 rifles, Czech model 26 light machine guns, and training bazookas. The heavy machine gun company had Czech model 37 heavy machine guns on carts, the gun company 45-mm guns, and the mortar company 80-mm and 120-mm mortars. [ ] the horses were to be replaced with motor vehicles. [ ] garages for 120 motor vehicles were constructed in Bystřice.
6. Maneuvers at division level were started at the Cesky Krumlov (N 49/Q 84) troop training grounds in early May 1950. Several tanks from Strassce (N 50/L 34) were attached to the division for the duration of the maneuvers, which were witnessed by two Soviet field-grade officers. [ ] a drivers' school was to be opened in Hanry on 1 December 1950. Preparatory training of drivers in Nyrsko was to start on 15 November 1950. (4)
7. [ ] the population of Nyrsko would be resettled and troops with tanks and heavy guns would move to Nyrsko.
8. In early September 1950, five Soviet officers arrived in Nyrsko for an inspection of the military quarters. Among them were a colonel and a lieutenant colonel who were also seen at a troop review in Susice two weeks later.
9. The roads leading to the border in the Nyrsko area were blocked by chevaux-de-frise, trenches and some mines.
- Comment:
- (1) The infantry unit in Nyrsko [ ] was established as the 23 Inf Bn in late 1948. It was mentioned [ ] for the first time as 23d Inf Regt, when its surname was changed in April 1949. [ ] referred to the unit as a regiment since then, although it consisted of only 10 companies. Therefore, Unit [ ] has still been carried as 23d Inf Bn. It seems possible, however, that the term regiment was justified, if the unit is a cadre regiment of regimental units and one full-size battalion. The present report states [ ] that Unit [ ] is organized into three battalions. This, however, requires substantiation, especially because [ ] fails to supply details on two battalions. It is also doubted that an additional battalion should be stationed in Bystřice, where only two companies have been located before. This would be possible, however, if a new cantonment was opened. [ ]
- [ ] For the time being, the unit will still be carried with its previous strength, it being immaterial whether it is designated as an infantry brigade or cadre division. Besides the 23d Inf Regt, the unit includes the 10th Arty Regt [ ] the 26th Inf Bn or Regt in Kasperske Hory; and the 66th Inf Bn or

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Regt in Vimperk. [REDACTED]

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- (2) Valenta, (fnu), was [REDACTED] a major and as chief of staff of the 18th Inf Regt. [REDACTED]
- (3) The information on the organization is probably incorrect in some points. The regimental units include a gun company instead of a heavy weapons company, while mortars and light AT guns constitute the equipment of the heavy weapons company with the battalions.
- (4) The maneuvers were held at the Boletice troop training grounds, west of Cesky Krumlov. The tanks probably belonged to the 23d Tank Brig in Strasice.

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[REDACTED] 25X1

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